

# DAILY BULLETIN

DECEMBER 10, 2004

## HUMAN RIGHTS DAY STATEMENT

The United States Joins Community of Democracies in Celebration of December 10 ..... 1

## THE U.S. PLEDGES \$125 MILLION TO THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Deputy Chief of Mission Lynn Cassel Addresses the Pledging Conference ..... 2

## AMB. DANFORTH AFFIRMS U.S. CONFIDENCE IN UNITED NATIONS' ANNAN

Envoy says secretary-general is "doing a good job" .. 3

## USAID FUNDS PROJECT TO FIGHT CHILDHOOD DEATHS IN DEVELOPING WORLD

Preventable diseases kill 11 million children each year, agency says..... 4

## POWELL SAYS UNITED STATES HOPES TO MEND BREACHES WITH EUROPE

Secretary also discusses Ukraine, Mideast in France 3  
Television interview ..... 4

## HUMAN RIGHTS DAY STATEMENT

The United States Joins Community of Democracies in Celebration of December 10

The United States, as a member of the Convening Group of the Community of Democracies, joins all Community of Democracies States in celebration of Human Rights Day on December 10th, 2004.

The principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are the cornerstone of a peaceful, secure and prosperous world. These values, which constitute a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, are central to democratic governance and are best protected by governments that are fully committed to the rule of law.

The Community of Democracies recognizes the fundamental importance of all human rights and the reinforcing mutual effects of, and interdependence among, peace, development, democracy and human rights. In both the Warsaw Declaration and the 2002 Seoul Plan of Action, Community of Democracies countries have committed themselves to strengthening the development of democratic institutions throughout the world and to promoting and protecting all human rights as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

On Human Rights Day, these Community of Democracies nations commend all nations that have worked hard to build democracies and to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms. They recommit themselves to the development of democracy domestically and the promotion of democracy

domestically and the promotion of democracy regionally and globally, in order to adhere to the principle laid out in this important Declaration.

#### THE U.S. PLEDGES \$125 MILLION TO THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Deputy Chief of Mission Lynn Cassel Addresses the Pledging Conference

Geneva,  
December 10, 2004

Mr. Chairman,

Today is Human Rights Day, on which we commemorate the 56th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which enshrined and universally recognized the principles of equality and justice through law. Our commemoration affirms our commitment to these principles.

The Convention on the Status of Refugees, to whose implementation we pledge our support today, is connected to the Universal Declaration by applying its human rights protections to those who, because of a well-founded fear of persecution, cannot avail themselves of the protection of their governments - in other words, to refugees.

The United States recognizes the importance of providing UN HCR with early contributions to ensure that its program to protect and assist refugees is not interrupted. I am, therefore, pleased to be here today to express the U.S. Government's support for the 2005 Annual Program of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and to pledge an initial contribution of \$125 million. Additional contributions will follow, and we will strive to provide our fair share of UNHCR's annual budget again in 2005.

The majority of our funding will be provided at the regional and sub-regional level as in past years. Country and functional earmarks will be made early in the year, with functional earmarks reflecting particular priorities of the United States such as emergency response, refugee women and children, registration, and HIV/AIDS.

The United States strongly supports a shared multilateral commitment to the protection and care of refugees and

others of concern to UNHCR. UNHCR is a key partner in critical international humanitarian activities in Chad, West Africa, Afghanistan, and elsewhere in the world. Multilateralism is vital to ensuring a successful humanitarian response, and it should be our guiding principle. Only through a concerted and coordinated approach can we maximize taxpayers' money, avoid duplication of effort, and work together as true global partners for the benefit of refugees and other persons of concern around the world. We encourage donors to join us in supporting a multilateral approach, and in providing UNHCR with early and flexible funding.

While we call on donors to support UNHCR efforts, we call on UNHCR to put forward its best effort. We recognize recent steps by UNHCR to improve its financial and human resources management; to adopt a modern, comprehensive refugee registration system; to increase the use of resettlement as a durable solution; and to enhance its protection capacity on the ground. We call on UNHCR to do more in this regard, and to pay greater attention to the issue of oversight and accountability, and its emergency response capacity.

Two months ago at the Executive Committee meeting, Member States approved the 2005 Annual Program budget of \$982 million. We all recognize that this budget does not reflect the totality of refugee needs. While we recognize the improbability of funding a needs-based budget, we should know what the totality of refugee needs, so that we can fill gaps when possible. We understand that the 2006 Country Operations Plan will instruct UNHCR country offices to perform an assessment of refugee needs. We call on UNHCR offices to give their best effort in this regard, and for headquarters to share the results with the Executive Committee.

We take this opportunity to commend the staff of UNHCR for their dedication and hard work, which is often carried out in very difficult circumstances.

Finally, we are pleased, once again, to acknowledge the contribution of the many States who have pledged their help to refugees by granting them refuge in their countries, particularly those that face development challenges for their own populations. We express special gratitude to countries that go a step further and provide refugees with opportunities for self-sufficiency, which allow refugees to contribute to the society in which they reside.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

## AMB. DANFORTH AFFIRMS U.S. CONFIDENCE IN UNITED NATIONS' ANNAN

Envoy says secretary-general is "doing a good job"

By Judy Aita

Washington File United Nations Correspondent

United Nations -- Ambassador John Danforth stepped forward to express U.S. support for U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan in the wake of criticism and calls by some U.S. legislators for the U.N. leader's resignation over the Iraqi Oil-for-Food Program investigations.

At a news conference December 9, Danforth, the chief U.S. envoy to the United Nations, said that "our view of the performance of the secretary general is that he has done a good job, that he is doing a good job, that we have worked with him, and we anticipate working with him in the future."

"There is no question that we have heard raised by anybody as to the personal integrity of the secretary general," the ambassador said. "We are expressing confidence in the secretary general and in his continuing in office."

"No one to my knowledge has cast doubt on the personal integrity of the secretary general. No one. And we certainly don't," he said.

Danforth said that he was speaking for the White House and State Department.

The controversy arose over the refusal of Secretary-General Annan and Paul Volcker, the chairman of the independent Oil-for-Food investigation, to turn over documents and materials to U.S. congressional committees until the U.N. inquiry into allegations of bribery, mismanagement and the skimming of Iraqi oil funds is completed. The congressional committees are also conducting their own investigations into the matter. In addition, Annan's son briefly worked for a company that received a contract from the United Nations to inspect the Oil-for-Food shipments.

In April, Annan appointed a three-member panel headed by Volcker, a former U.S. Federal Reserve chairman, to investigate allegations of mismanagement in the now-defunct Oil-for-Food Program established to use Iraqi oil proceeds to pay for humanitarian goods for Iraqi civilians while U.N. sanctions were in place.

Among other things, the panel has the authority to inves-

tigate whether the procedures established by the United Nations for the administration and management of the Oil-for-Food Program were violated and to determine whether any U.N. officials, personnel, agents or contractors engaged in any illicit or corrupt activities while on the job.

Danforth said the Bush administration feels that "the investigation is critically important."

The ambassador said that he was moved to come forward with the expression of U.S. support for Annan after the news media and U.N. colleagues interpreted U.S. statements expressing the desire for "an objective and thorough investigation" as not supportive of the secretary-general, and suggested that it "appeared as though what the U.S. really wants to do is to force" Annan's resignation.

"I probably was not good enough at recognizing" that the U.S. statements would be misinterpreted, Danforth said.

"It is important for the U.S. to clarify its position," Danforth said. "We are not suggesting the resignation or pushing for the resignation of the secretary-general. We have worked with him very well in the past. We anticipate working with him very well in the future."

Danforth also said that the Volcker inquiry is the "primary investigation." Nevertheless, he added that "Congress certainly has every right to be engaged in this and there should be cooperation."

"There is a cloud over the United Nations," the ambassador said. "All the information that should be turned over must be turned over. The worst thing to continue the cloud over an organization is to give the impression that something is being hidden or that there is not total cooperation," he said.

Calling the inquiry "essentially a criminal investigation," Danforth said that "the heart of the investigation has to be investigation into the alleged wrongdoing: Was there fraud? Was there bribery? Were there payoffs, if so, who got what from whom?"

"That factual investigation has to go forward in a very comprehensive fashion," he said.

## USAID FUNDS PROJECT TO FIGHT CHILDHOOD DEATHS IN DEVELOPING WORLD

Preventable diseases kill 11 million children each year, agency says

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced it has awarded a new contract to the Partnership for Child Health Care Inc., for up to \$500 million to fight needless childhood deaths in the developing world.

In a December 8 statement, USAID said nearly 11 million children worldwide die each year of preventable diseases. The contract seeks to cut that number through immunization, Vitamin A supplementation, and treatment of diarrhea, pneumonia and malaria, said USAID.

Following is the text of the USAID statement, with further details:

Washington, D.C.  
December 8, 2004

### USAID Announces \$500 Million Umbrella Contract for Child Survival

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Today, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced a contract for up to \$500 million to fight needless childhood deaths in the developing world. Supporting families and communities, the contract will help expand effective child health interventions like immunization, Vitamin A supplementation and treatment of diarrhea, pneumonia and malaria.

"Nearly 11 million children die each year of preventable diseases," said Dr. E. Anne Peterson, Assistant Administrator of USAID's Bureau for Global Health. "We have a major opportunity and a moral obligation to implement low-cost, lifesaving treatment for children in the developing world."

The group receiving the award is the Partnership for Child Health Care, Inc., a joint venture of the Academy for Educational Development, John Snow, Inc., and Management Sciences for Health. Under the contract, the awardees will exclusively support USAID's child survival program through activities to increase the use of child health and nutrition interventions by families, communities and health systems.

The new contract bolsters USAID's role as a leader in the global Child Survival Partnership, a multi-donor program established to focus attention on the dire health needs of children in developing countries, with the goal of saving six million children each year by 2015.

USAID's child survival agenda has been active since 1985, when Congress created the Child Survival Program. Since then, USAID has obligated more than \$5 billion for child survival, HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. In addition, USAID has provided more than \$2.5 billion to child survival programs in developing countries for maternal and child immunization; prevention and treatment of respiratory infections, diarrheal diseases, and malaria; breastfeeding; nutrition, and water and sanitation.

The U.S. Agency for International Development has provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for more than 40 years.

## POWELL SAYS UNITED STATES HOPES TO MEND BREACHES WITH EUROPE

Secretary also discusses Ukraine, Mideast in France  
3 Television interview

Secretary of State Colin Powell acknowledged U.S. disagreements with France and some other European countries December 9 but said that President Bush "hopes to mend these breaches" during his visit to Europe in February 2005.

Asked specifically about President Bush's relationship with French President Jacques Chirac during an interview with France 3 Television, Powell said, "I think it is not as bad as people say it is, but we are always looking for ways to improve the relationship."

Citing U.S.-French cooperation on Afghanistan, Haiti, Cote d'Ivoire, NATO enlargement and NATO-EU relations, Powell said the United States recognizes France as a partner, an ally and as an important trading partner.

Powell also responded to questions regarding Iraqi and Palestinian elections, Iran and Ukraine.

He said the United States is going to do everything it can to “make sure security conditions permit” the Iraqi elections to take place January 30, 2005.

Powell also said he hopes that Palestinian elections on January 9, 2005, will lead to new progress on the road map for peace. “I hope that the Palestinians, with their new leader, their new president, will understand that this is a terrific opportunity,” he said.

“The international community stands ready to help both the Palestinians and the Israelis,” he added.

Regarding Iran, Powell acknowledged that the United States would have preferred to refer the problem of Iran’s nuclear program to the U.N. Security Council but deferred to the judgment of its European allies.

“This is a case where the United States is working with our European friends, working with the international community, not acting in a unilateral manner,” he said. “And this is the way we do most of our business.”

On Ukraine, Powell reiterated that the United States does not see itself as in competition with Russia. “The Ukrainian people want a free, fair, open election. It doesn’t have anything to do with anyone’s zone of influence or sphere of influence. These are old terms that are not relevant,” he said.

“What we should be doing -- the United States, the European Union and the Russians -- is supporting the Ukrainian people in their desire for a free, fair election,” he added.

Powell, who is departing his post as U.S. secretary of state, said that during the past four years he was impressed by the fact that so many people worldwide want “to live in freedom and to live under a political system that rests on a foundation of democracy and free elections.”

“They’re expecting the industrialized world, the European world and the American world to join together and help them in any way that we can. And that’s what we are committed to do,” he said.

As his wish for 2005, Powell said he hoped “any breaches that remain between Europe and the United States are closed. And we can work together to help the broader Middle East nations and North African nations reform and modernize themselves with our help.”

**Plases Note:** Most texts and transcript mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage: [www.usmission.ch](http://www.usmission.ch)

Select "Washington File" from the top menu bar.